GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1345
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
KEEPING VACCINE POTENT
Channappa Shri Kunnur Manjunath

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-British venture has announced a break through in keeping vaccines potent in sugar box/crystals as reported in the Indian Express dated October 20, 2004; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The news item reported in the Indian Express dated October 20,2004 is based on a press release issued by M/s Panacea Biotec. Ltd., New Delhi who are engaged in manufacture of vaccines. According to the details provided by M/s Panacea, they have entered into an agreement with M/s Cambridge Biostability Ltd., U.K., for developing a stable vaccine product based on a new technology which mimics a natural phenomenon, wherein some organisms are able to survive in dried-up form in for hundred of years (anhydrohiosis). In this technology water within the cell is replaced with a sugar solution that thickens when water is excluded to a point of solidifying as a glass and the organisms dries out. Cells are kept in a state of suspended animation until re-hydration occurs and (the organism-plant, animal or bacteria-returns to life. The process is being applied for first time to vaccines. The vaccine is first spray-dried using the sugar syrup to for microscopic glass spheres. The dry vaccine is then suspended in an approved inert liquid, which can be injected into muscle where bodily fluids reactivates the vaccine. As for Indian Express news, article the human trial will began next year.